

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A ganging tool suitable for adjusting the position of a pair of ganged wiring devices, the ganging tool comprising:

5 a frame comprising a top member, a bottom member, a left member, and a right member;

 a center member extending from a central portion of the bottom member to a central portion of the top member, wherein the center member configures a first and second device aperture and further, wherein each device aperture is dimensioned to

10 accommodate wiring devices;

 a leveling means for determining the level of the ganging tool; and

 a rotatable toggle adaptor disposed horizontally across each device aperture, wherein each toggle adaptor has a first position to allow the device aperture to accommodate a toggle type wiring device and a second position to allow the device
15 aperture to accommodate a non-toggle type wiring device.

2. The ganging tool of claim 1, further comprising:

 a first pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front surface of a left end of the top member and a front surface of a left end of the bottom member; and

20 a second pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front surface of a right end of the top member and a front surface of a right end of the bottom member, wherein the tool cutouts are dimensioned to fit a power tool.

3. The ganging tool of claim 1, wherein the leveling means is a bubble level.

4. The ganging tool of claim 3, further comprising a level mounting for holding
25 the bubble level, wherein the level mounting is disposed on a front surface of the

ganging tool at a location where the center member and top member meet, the level mounting comprising:

a holder extending from a front surface of the center member to a point below the top member;

5 a window notch disposed along an upper edge of the holder; and

a pair of opposing holder arms disposed perpendicular to the holder and running along side edges of the holder and extending partially into the top member, wherein the holder and holder arms form a slot for holding the bubble level.

5. The ganging tool of claim 1, wherein the toggle adaptor comprises:

10 a U-shaped planar toggle body having a front and rear surface, the toggle body being disposed perpendicular to the top and bottom member and parallel to the center, left and right members; and

a flange extending perpendicular to the rear surface of the toggle body and running along an interior edge of the toggle body, wherein the toggle body and flange are dimensioned to accommodate a toggle and bezel of a toggle-type wiring device, wherein when the toggle adapter is in the first position the flange extends rearwards and the rear surface of the toggle body is directly adjacent to a front surface of the wiring device and when the toggle adapter is in the second position the flange extends forwards and the front surface of the toggle body is directly adjacent to the front surface of the wiring device.
20

6. The ganging tool of claim 5, further comprising a toggle adaptor mounting assembly comprising:

a mounting notch disposed on each inner surface of the left, right and center members and positioned adjacent to an end of an immediately adjacent toggle body;
25

a mounting arm extending perpendicularly from an exterior edge of each end of the toggle body into an immediately adjacent mounting notch;

a mounting hole disposed on an inner surface of each mounting notch, wherein each mounting hole is positioned in line with an immediately adjacent mounting arm; and

a mounting pin projecting from an end of each mounting arm into an immediately adjacent mounting hole.

7. The ganging tool of claim 6, further comprising a stop mechanism for limiting the rotational travel of the toggle adapter, the stop mechanism comprising:

a stop ledge disposed on the inner surface of each mounting notch and positioned below the mounting hole, wherein an inner surface of the stop ledge is co-planar with the inner surface of an immediately adjacent member; and

a stop arm disposed parallel to and at a distance away from each mounting arm, wherein the stop arm extends from the exterior edge of the toggle body and into the immediately adjacent mounting notch and further, wherein a tip of the stop arm rests on a front surface of one end of an immediately adjacent stop ledge when the toggle adaptor is in the first position and the tip rests on the front surface of the opposite end of the immediately adjacent stop ledge when the toggle adaptor is in the second position.

8. The ganging tool of claim 7, further comprising a holding mechanism for holding the toggle adapter in place when the toggle adapter is in the first and second position, the holding mechanism comprising:

a frame stop positioned on each inside corner of each mounting notch adjacent to and co-planar with a front surface of an immediately adjacent member; and

a toggle stop projecting from an exterior edge of each stop arm and disposed immediately adjacent to the tip of the stop arm, wherein the frame stop and toggle stop are dimensioned so that the toggle stop snap fits over the frame stop.

9. A ganging tool suitable for adjusting the position of three ganged wiring devices, the ganging tool comprising:

a frame comprising a top member, a bottom member, a left member, and a right member;

two parallel spaced-apart center members extending from the bottom member to the top member, wherein the center members configure a left, center and right device aperture, wherein each device aperture is dimensioned to accommodate wiring devices;

a leveling means for determining the level of the ganging tool; and

a rotatable toggle adaptor disposed horizontally across each device aperture, wherein each toggle adaptor has a first position to allow the device aperture to accommodate a toggle type wiring device and a second position to allow the device aperture to accommodate a non-toggle type wiring device.

10. The ganging tool of claim 9, further comprising:

a first pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front surface of a left end of the top member and a front surface of a left end of the bottom member, wherein the first pair of opposing tool cutouts are respectively directly adjacent to a top and bottom of the left device aperture;

a second pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front surface of a center portion of the top member and a front surface of a center portion of the bottom member, wherein the second pair of opposing tool cutouts are respectively directly adjacent to a top and bottom of the center device aperture; and

a third pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front surface of a right end of the top member and a front surface of a right end of the bottom member, wherein the third pair of opposing tool cutouts are respectively directly adjacent to the right device aperture and further, wherein the tool cutouts are dimensioned to fit a power tool.

11 The ganging tool of claim 9, wherein the leveling means is a bubble level.

12. The ganging tool of claim 9, wherein the toggle adaptor comprises:

a U-shaped planar toggle body having a front and rear surface, the toggle body being disposed perpendicular to the top and bottom member and parallel to the center, left and right members; and

a flange extending perpendicular to the rear surface of the toggle body and running along an interior edge of the toggle body, wherein the toggle body and flange are dimensioned to accommodate a toggle and bezel of a toggle-type wiring device, wherein when the toggle adapter is in the first position the flange extends rearwards and the rear surface of the toggle body is directly adjacent to a front surface of the wiring device and when the toggle adapter is in the second position the flange extends forwards and the front surface of the toggle body is directly adjacent to the front surface of the wiring device.

13. The ganging tool of claim 12, further comprising a toggle adaptor mounting assembly comprising:

a mounting notch disposed on each inner surface of the left, right and center members and positioned adjacent to an end of an immediately adjacent toggle body;

a mounting arm extending perpendicularly from an exterior edge of each end of the toggle body into an immediately adjacent mounting notch;

a mounting hole disposed on an inner surface of each mounting notch, wherein each mounting hole is positioned in line with an immediately adjacent mounting arm; and

5 a mounting pin projecting from an end of each mounting arm into an immediately adjacent mounting hole.

14. The ganging tool of claim 13, further comprising a stop mechanism for limiting the rotational travel of the toggle adapter, the stop mechanism comprising:

a stop ledge disposed on the inner surface of each mounting notch and positioned below the mounting hole, wherein an inner surface of the stop ledge is
10 co-planar with the inner surface of the immediately adjacent member; and

a stop arm disposed parallel to and at a distance away from each mounting arm, wherein the stop arm extends from the exterior edge of the toggle body and into the immediately adjacent mounting notch and further, wherein a tip of the stop arm rests on a front surface of one end of an immediately adjacent stop ledge when the toggle adaptor
15 is in the first position and the tip rests on the front surface of the opposite end of the immediately adjacent stop ledge when the toggle adaptor is in the second position.

15. The ganging tool of claim 14, further comprising a holding mechanism for holding the toggle adapter in place when the toggle adapter is in the first and second position, the holding mechanism comprising:

20 a frame stop positioned on each inside corner of each mounting notch adjacent to and co-planar with a front surface of an immediately adjacent member; and

a toggle stop projecting from an exterior edge of each stop arm and disposed immediately adjacent to the tip of the stop arm, wherein the frame stop and toggle stop are dimensioned so that the toggle stop snap fits over the frame stop.

16. A ganging tool suitable for adjusting the position of a pair of ganged wiring devices, the ganging tool comprising:

a frame comprising a top member, a bottom member, a left member, and a right member;

5 a center member extending from a central portion of the bottom member to a central portion of the top member, wherein the center member configures a first and second device aperture and further, wherein each device aperture is dimensioned to accommodate wiring devices; and

a rotatable toggle adaptor disposed horizontally across each device
10 aperture, wherein each toggle adaptor has a first position to allow the device aperture to accommodate a toggle type wiring device and a second position to allow the device aperture to accommodate a non-toggle type wiring device.

17. The ganging tool of claim 16, further comprising:

a first pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front
15 surface of a left end of the top member and a front surface of a left end of the bottom member; and

a second pair of opposing tool cutouts respectively disposed on a front surface of a right end of the top member and a front surface of a right end of the bottom member, wherein the tool cutouts are dimensioned to fit a power tool.

20 18. The ganging tool of claim 16, further comprising a leveling means for determining the level of the ganging tool.

19. The ganging tool of claim 16, wherein the toggle adaptor comprises:

a U-shaped planar toggle body having a front and rear surface, the toggle body being disposed perpendicular to the top and bottom member and parallel to the
25 center, left and right members; and

a flange extending perpendicular to the rear surface of the toggle body and running along an interior edge of the toggle body, wherein the toggle body and flange are dimensioned to accommodate a toggle and bezel of a toggle-type wiring device, wherein when the toggle adapter is in the first position the flange extends rearwards and the rear surface of the toggle body is directly adjacent to a front surface of the wiring device and when the toggle adapter is in the second position the flange extends forwards and the front surface of the toggle body is directly adjacent to the front surface of the wiring device.

20. The ganging tool of claim 19, further comprising:

(a) a toggle adaptor mounting assembly comprising:

a mounting notch disposed on each inner surface of the left, right and center members and positioned adjacent to an end of an immediately adjacent toggle body;

a mounting arm extending perpendicularly from an exterior edge of each end of the toggle body into an immediately adjacent mounting notch;

a mounting hole disposed on an inner surface of each mounting notch, wherein each mounting hole is positioned in line with an immediately adjacent mounting arm; and

a mounting pin projecting from an end of each mounting arm into an immediately adjacent mounting hole;

(b) a stop mechanism for limiting the rotational travel of the toggle adapter, the stop mechanism comprising:

a stop ledge disposed on the inner surface of each mounting notch and positioned below the mounting hole, wherein an inner surface of the stop ledge is co-planar with the inner surface of an immediately adjacent member; and

a stop arm disposed parallel to and at a distance away from each mounting arm, wherein the stop arm extends from the exterior edge of the toggle body and into the immediately adjacent mounting notch and further, wherein a tip of the stop arm rests on a front surface of one end of an immediately adjacent stop ledge when the toggle adaptor is in the first position and the tip rests on the front surface of the opposite end of the immediately adjacent stop ledge when the toggle adaptor is in the second position; and

(c) a holding mechanism for holding the toggle adapter in place when the toggle adapter is in the first and second position, the holding mechanism comprising:

10 a frame stop positioned on each inside corner of each mounting notch adjacent to and co-planar with a front surface of an immediately adjacent member; and

a toggle stop projecting from an exterior edge of each stop arm and disposed immediately adjacent to the tip of the stop arm, wherein the frame stop and
15 toggle stop are dimensioned so that the toggle stop snap fits over the frame stop.